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Identical letters dated 25 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from H.E. Ali Akbar Salehi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressed to you concerning the use of chemical weapons in Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

13-27057 (E) 270313

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Annex to the identical letters dated 25 March 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

As you have been informed, the Syrian armed opposition groups used chemical weapons on 19 March 2013 in Aleppo, which resulted in the death and injury of a number of innocent civilians in that country. This attack is a serious threat to international peace and security and a gross violation of legally established international norms, in particular the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a main victim of the contemporary use of chemical weapons, condemns this inhumane crime and, while recalling the responsibilities of all States regarding the prohibition of any use of chemical weapons and the rendering of any help to other States and terrorist groups in using chemical weapons, calls on all States and international organizations, including the United Nations, to condemn, without hesitation and in clear terms, this inhumane crime, take all possible measures to prevent the repetition of the use of chemical weapons, support the initiative of carrying out an impartial investigation of this incident, identify those who provided such weapons and poisonous chemical materials to terrorists in Syria and punish the perpetrators of the crime. In the same vein, the Islamic Republic of Iran takes note of the efforts of the Secretary-General, based on the request of the Syrian Government, to investigate this case, and expresses the hope that such an investigation will be done in full impartiality, objectivity and seriousness.

This chemical attack, carried out on the threshold of the third review conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention, reminds us once again of the necessity for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention by Member States, and in particular of the necessity for possessors of such weapons to totally eliminate such barbaric weapons.

According to the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the use or threat of use of chemical weapons under any pretext or circumstances by States and opposition groups is condemnable and unacceptable. I am certain that the United Nations will condemn in the strongest terms the use of chemical weapons against the defenceless people in Aleppo and, in accordance with the principles and goals set out for the maintenance of international peace and security, will do its utmost to prevent the repetition of the use of such horrifying weapons.

(*Signed*) Ali Akbar **Salehi**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran